

## **Amendments to the Claims:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

1. - 6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising partly hydrophobic silica particles prepared by the process of claim 1 said partly hydrophobic silica particles having a contact angle  $\theta$  in air for water of less than  $180^\circ$ , a degree of coverage  $\tau$  of the surface of the silica with silylating agent residues, based on the total silica particle surface area, of  $1\% < \tau < 50\%$ , a density of surface silanol groups SiOH ranging between a minimum of 0.9 and a maximum of 1.7 SiOH/nm<sup>2</sup> particle surface area, and having a carbon content of more than 0% and up to ~~[[20]]~~ 2.0% by weight, and a methanol number of less than 30, said partly hydrophobic silica prepared by a process comprising silylating silica particles with

I) an organosilane of the formula



where n is 1, 2 or 3

or mixtures of these organosilanes,

R<sup>1</sup> being a monovalent, optionally halogenated hydrocarbon radical having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, being identical or different at each occurrence, and being saturated, aromatic, monounsaturated, or polyunsaturated,

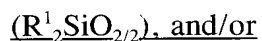
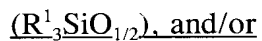
X each independently being halogen, a nitrogen radical, OR<sup>2</sup>, OCOR<sup>2</sup>, or O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>x</sub>OR<sup>2</sup>,

R<sup>2</sup> being hydrogen or a monovalent hydrocarbon radical having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, and

x being 1, 2 or 3;

or

II) an organosiloxane composed of units of the formula



where  $R^1$  is as defined above, or mixtures thereof,

the number of these units in one organosiloxane being at least 2; and I and II being used alone or in any desired mixtures in a total amount of from 0.015 mmol/g to 0.15 mmol/g per 100 m<sup>2</sup>/g of silica BET surface area measured by the BET method in accordance with DIN 66131 and 66132.

8. - 14. (Cancelled).